

THE ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
URBAN DISTRICT OF EAST DEREHAM
Norfolk
for the year ending 31st December, 1946

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

N.E.D. Cartledge, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
(To 30th June, 1946).

S.T.G. Gray, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(1st July to 24th August, 1946)

C.S. Thomson, M.B., B.Ch., B.L.O., D.P.H.
(From 25th August, 1946)

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor:

T. Spurr, M.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E., C.I.S.B.,

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EAST DEREHAM URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1946.

Section A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	5,313
Population (1931 Census)	5,643
" (Registrar General's Estimate - mid 1946,	5,800
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946)	1,841
Rateable Value	£26,427
Sum represented by a penny rate	£103. 14. 0.

The estimated population varied during the past six years as follows:-

1940	...	6,262	1943	...	6,552
1941	...	6,640	1944	...	6,214
1942	...	6,552	1945	...	5,721

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		Totals	M.	F.
Live Births	) Legitimate	94	48	46
	) Illegitimate	15	10	5
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	17.06		
Still Births	) Legitimate	3	2	1
	) Illegitimate	-	-	-
Still Birth rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births		26.78		
Deaths		89	40	49
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	13.6		
Deaths from Cancer, (all ages)		14		
" " Measles "	" "	-		
" " Whooping Cough "	" "	-		
" " Diarrhoea, (under 2 years of age)	" "	-		
Infantile Mortality Rate		<u>1946</u>		<u>1945</u>
(a) All infants per 1,000 live births		64		8
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		74		10
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		Nil.		Nil.

The birth rate (17.06) is 3.04 lower than in 1945 and compares with a rate of 19.1 for England and Wales.

Illegitimate births represented 13.7% of the total births as compared with 13% last year.

There were 7 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving a rate per 1,000 live births of 64, as compared with 8 last year.

The death rate (13.6) is 0.3% lower than in 1945, and 2.1 higher than the rate for England and Wales (11.5).

Section B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The Public Health Staff of the Urban District Council consists of a part-time Medical Officer of Health and a Sanitary Inspector. The latter also carries out the duties of Engineer, Surveyor, Markets, Meat and Food Inspector.

The County Isolation Hospital at Dereham has accommodation for 96 beds. Huts provide accommodation for an additional 29 beds. Shortage of nursing and domestic staff has prevented full use being made of the accommodation available. 7 patients from the District were admitted during the year.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The number of children immunised during 1946, according to the records available is as follows:-

<u>Under 5 years</u>	<u>5 - 14 years</u>
48	1

Section C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER.

The average daily consumption was 139,236 gallons as compared with 131,990 gallons in the previous year, the average daily pumping hours being 11.9 compared with 15.6 in 1945.

Pumping was at the rate of 10,702 gallons per hour.

During the year new automatic control gear for the new 35 h.p. Beresford pump on No.3 bore-hole at the Waterworks was fitted, together with a new float switch operating mechanism.

Sampling of the main water supply on consumers premises gave satisfactory results throughout the year.

Plans for the installation of filtration and softening plant were considered.

There was only one breakdown during the year of one day's duration because of an electric failure.

The subsidiary water supply on the Yaxham Road Council Houses Site gave a highly satisfactory result. An unsatisfactory report on the Etling Green village pump water supply was given and action to improve the quality of this supply was taken.

Bacteriological examination of all Waterworks employees was instituted during the year.

During the year 817 properties were on the mains supply, while 288 properties were supplied by yard stand pipes.

A total of 50,777,736 gallons was pumped during the year, representing an increase of 2,600,391 gallons as compared with the previous year.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Drains were tested during the year and where found defective notices to repair were served. An extension to cater for the Littlefields Council Houses Estate was approved.

The ditch receiving the effluent from the Urban District Council Gasworks was cleansed during the year and the Railway authorities agreed to de-silt their waste water before discharging into it.

During the year two new distributors were installed at the Sewerage Works which was also provided with a replacement flowmeter. The pump engine was overhauled and an accumulation of sludge was carted away.

Systematic rat baiting of the sewers was commenced.

The question of the provision of sewerage for Toftwood at an estimated cost of £20,000 was the subject of a report by the Urban District Council's Consulting Engineers. Such a scheme would rank for a considerable grant under the 1944 Rural Water and Sewerage Act.

The average daily flow through the Sewerage Works for certain periods of the year was as follows:-

May	June	July	August	September
169,333	198,000	206,571	216,071	208,799
October	November	December		
134,175	285,657	180,714		

3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Seven properties were converted from pail closet to the water carriage system during the year. It was estimated that if all the Toftwood area of the Urban District was seweried and all possible conversions to the water carriage system were also made in Dereham itself, over 80% of the Urban District would be on the water carriage system and many cesspools would be cut out.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Refuse Dump at the rear of the Northgate Council Houses continued in use throughout the year.

Some 1,700 dustbins are emptied weekly. Many cesspools and privy vaults have been emptied during the year.

5. SUMMARY OF DUTIES CARRIED OUT BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Houses and premises inspected	202
Nuisances abated	112 (12 preliminary notices were served in this respect).
Houses disinfected	4
Bedding disinfected	4

The Sanitary Inspector attended a Course on the destruction of rats as the Urban District Council agreed to receive delegated powers from the Norfolk County Council under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act. As a result of schemes initiated following this Course, 224 rats were killed by bait, numerous properties being treated.

Section D. HOUSING.

Number of houses erected in District during the year:

(1) By the Local Authority Nil.

(2) By other bodies or persons 2.

Summary of Houses erected by the Urban District Council
up to the end of 1946:

Housing Acts, 1919, 1923 and 1924	64
Housing Acts, 1930, 1936 and 1938	<u>80</u>
<u>144</u>	

8 were for relief of overcrowding

Work has commenced on the erection of 44 permanent houses as follows:-

Toftwood (3 bedroom type)	8
Becclesgate Estate (2 bedroom type)	12
Becclesgate Estate (3 bedroom type)	10
Yaxham Road (3 bedroom type)	<u>14</u>
<u>44</u>	

Site Works have also commenced for the provision of 20 aluminium type of temporary houses and these should be erected early in the new year.

A great deal of work in connection with planning of further estates has been carried out as follows:-

Sandy Lane Estate	124 houses
Westfield Road	8 "
Cemetery Road	<u>2</u> "
<u>134</u>	

The two proposed houses at Etling Green have been disapproved.

Section E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply

The Norfolk County Council were informed during the year that the Urban District Council had no objection to their issuing accredited milk licences with effect from August. Routine sampling of milk supplies was carried out during the year.

Milk and Dairies Order 1926

Number of registered purveyors of milk	9
Number of registered cowkeepers and wholesale purveyors of milk	20

Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 & 1938

Number of licenced producers of Accredited Milk ...	6
Number of licenced purveyors of Accredited Milk ...	5

Milk Sampling

5 samples were taken for examination but the bulk of sampling is now carried out by the Norfolk County Council. In one case the sample did not come up to standard but a repeat sample proved negative.

Milk and Dairies Inspection

10 premises were inspected.

(b) Meat and Other Foods

Slaughtering is carried out at a central Slaughter House under Government control. This site suffers mainly from its inadequate accommodation, apart from the undesirability of slaughtering animals near the middle of an urban area. An alternative site was considered and officials of the Ministries of Health and Food were invited to inspect existing arrangements.

Regular inspection of meat is carried out by the Meat Inspector.

A total of 4,200 carcases were examined by the Meat Inspector during 1946.

The following was condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Sheep</u>
Whole carcases	34	1	5	-
Organs	307	1	2	-
Part carcases	24	-	5	-

Other Diseases

Whole carcases	5	-	26	6
Organs	348½	-	11	72½
Part carcases	9	2	12	3

Miscellaneous Foods:-

Tinned Foods	... 388 tins	Cornflower	... 24 lbs
Tinned Milk	... 382 tins	Soyagetti	... 5½ cwt
Cereals	... 141 packets	Tea	... 41¼ lbs
Cheese	... 52 packets	Prunes	... 75 lbs
Sultanas	... 29 lbs	Milled Barley	... 2cwt 2 stones
Meat	... 30½ lbs	Fish Paste	... 37 jars.

Common Lodging House

These premises were closed during the year, leaving no Common Lodging House in the Town.

Section F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	6	2	-
Pneumonia	4	1	5
Whooping Cough	18	-	-
Measles	24	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES BY AGE GROUPS

Age Groups (Years)	Under 1	1-2	2-3	4-	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64	65
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	5	2	1	3	3	3	-	-	1	-	-
Measles	3	-	3	5	4	8	-	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

TUBERCULOSIS

11 cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year. The comparative figures for the preceding three years 1943, 1944, and 1945 were 8, 11 and 8 respectively.

The incidence of these 11 cases by type and age group is shown in the following table:-

Age Groups	New Cases						Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	5	2	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-

The 1 fatal case had been notified prior to death.

At the end of the Year, there were 57 cases of tuberculosis on the District Register, 16 respiratory and 41 non-respiratory.

The death rate from tuberculosis was .17 per 1,000 population, as compared with .17 per 1,000 population in 1945.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

The Government Evacuation Scheme was officially wound up during the year.

It was decided to advertise for a Medical Officer of Health to hold the joint appointment as Medical Officer of Health to this Authority and the neighbouring Rural District Council, in addition to duties as Assistant County Medical Officer, and as Medical Officer at the County Isolation Hospital East Dereham. Dr.S.T.G.Gray assumed this appointment in June in succession to Dr.N.E.D.Cartledge who had been Medical Officer for many years to this Authority. Dr.C.S.Thomson took over the combined appointments from Dr.Gray on 25th August, 1946.

CHARLES S. THOMSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

